

# Climbers in Great Game in the Ninth from Athletics, 5 to 4

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## GANDIL'S CLOUTLANDS BATTLE FOR CLIMBERS

Chick Singles to Right in the Ninth and Dan Moeller Scores—Seventeen Now the Record of Nationals.  
Clide Milan Makes Great Catch.

By WILLIAM PEET.

Bob Groom steered the big steam roller in the Concrete Coliseum yesterday and crushed the Athletics, twice world's champions, 5 to 4 before a shirt waisted crowd which packed every available inch of room in the big concrete stands at National Park.

Seventeen victories in a row for Griff's Climbers was the count last night. Is it any wonder the Capital is baseball crazy? President Taft, Vice President Sherman, Speaker Champ Clark, and others rubbed elbows with the fans, but nobody paid very much attention to the statemen. Griff's sensational young Climbers were the attraction, and as for the game itself, this combat was a thriller from the tap of the bell.

**CHICK GANDIL A HIT.**  
Chick Gandil, the rangy first sacker, who was obtained from the Montreal club of the International League, made his debut before a Washington audience, and Gandil's hitting helped Groom win the ball game.

The first sacker not only drove in the winning run in the last half of the ninth, but he sent over the Nationals' first tally in the opener, scored Milan with a two-bagger in the seventh, and came home himself in that round with the run which put the home folks in the lead.

The Athletics were powerless before Bob Groom until the seventh, when the lanky finger weakened and three runs poured over the plate, putting the tribe of Mack one run to the good. As has been the case while on the road, the Climbers laughed at a one-run lead, and in their half of the seventh sent over two tallies, assuming the lead again. Groom pulled himself out of a tight hole in the eighth, and after he had retired two guests in the ninth it looked as if the ball game was over, but Catcher Egan came along with a three-bagger, knotting the count, and it remained for the Climbers to pull the game out of the fire in the ninth, which they did in a sensational manner.

**Confident All the Time.**  
At no time during the game did the young athletes under Clark Griffith believe the world's champs would beat them. Were they not on the home field, among friends, and had they not just cleaned up everything in the West? The idea of Philadelphia and other members of the Athletics, "Gandil was out. You can't pull any of that stuff on us."

Several consultations followed. There was a lot of whispering and arguments, both teams trying to swap words with the arbiters. Finally O'Loughlin decided that Gandil had made a clean two-base hit, and that as he was headed for third he was entitled to that bag and also home plate. O'Loughlin asked the spectators if any of them touched the ball. Of course about two dozen answered in chorus: "Sure we touched it."

**Run Puts Climbers Up.**  
Gandil's run put the Nationals into the lead again by the narrow margin of one point, and it looked pretty good in the ninth when Melina, the first up, gave Milan a liner which the speedy outfielder gathered in after a hard chase. Barry, however, was passed, and this proved Groom's undoing. For the Climbers, already proved a bugaboo to the Nationals, opened the game on the mound for the Mack gang. Morgan had a good day for his spittball, and was fairly effective. In the seventh the Minstrel Man was relieved by Houck, and in the ninth Connie Mack introduced to us young Pennock, a left hander. Pennock possessed a nice, fast motion, and was able to pitch the brand of ball just suited to Chick Gandil, for it was off this youth that Gandil connected for his winning single, a smoking blow to right.

To the writer, who has followed the Nationals on their triumphant tour of the West, yesterday's exhibition was of the true strength of the club. Ray Morgan, although suffering from an abscess in the back, started the game, and although threatened with annihilation several times struck to his task manfully. He allowed eleven hits and the Nationals only pulled down eight off the champ's fingers, but with the exception of the seventh, Sir Robert kept the clouts well scattered.

**Johnson Still Weak.**  
Walter Johnson was slated to pitch yesterday's game, but the big fellow is still a trifle weak and suffering from a severe sore throat, so the burden fell upon the shoulders of Bob Groom, who has been given more than his share of work during the past two weeks. Groom, although suffering from an abscess in the back, started the game, and although threatened with annihilation several times struck to his task manfully. He allowed eleven hits and the Nationals only pulled down eight off the champ's fingers, but with the exception of the seventh, Sir Robert kept the clouts well scattered.

After Moeller perished in the Nationals' opener, Eddie Foster smashed to deep center. Rube Oldring struck up his hand and the ball just grazed his finger tip. Milan went out via the Collins-McInnis route, but along came Chick Gandil with a corking single to center and Foster romped home.

The Nationals' second tally was handed them on a silver platter, but it was all in the luck of the game, and the tally counts just as much as an earned run in the official averages. Groom was hit

by a pitched ball when the toothpick went into the seventh. Moeller laid down a bunt and Groom reached second. Foster hit an easy grounder to Barry, the shortstopper first fumbled and then threw poorly to Melina, and while this was going on Groom scored.

Like old Vesuvius, the world's champs shook off their dormant state and opened the seventh with a violent eruption, which took the foundations of the concrete coliseum. Three runs came over, placing the figures on the score board, Athletics, 3; Nationals, 2. Groom was fairly drilled with solid shot, four safe clouts, one of them a triple, producing runs, while the crowd nearly went into hysterics as the sunlight of their hopes was rudely turned off.

**Big Doings in Seventh.**  
When the Nationals came to bat in their half of the seventh, the Athletics had a youngster named Houck on the bring line. Houck got off to a fine start by striking out Dan Moeller and then threw to the crowd, which fringed the concrete coliseum. Three runs came over, placing the figures on the score board, Athletics, 3; Nationals, 2. Groom was fairly drilled with solid shot, four safe clouts, one of them a triple, producing runs, while the crowd nearly went into hysterics as the sunlight of their hopes was rudely turned off.

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IS HE THERE, BOYS?



CHICK GANDIL.  
The hero of yesterday's great battle at the Concrete Coliseum.

### Nationals' Batting Averages Up to Date.

Player	G.	AB.	R.	H.	SR.	SH.	Pct.
Gandil	20	81	15	30	4	1	.371
Morgan	24	83	14	27	6	2	.320
Moeller	48	187	38	58	14	3	.310
Foster	55	227	40	70	11	0	.306
Johnson	18	33	8	10	1	1	.302
Walker	16	50	11	15	5	0	.300
Milan	55	212	30	63	33	1	.297
Alamith	22	65	8	17	3	5	.263
Schaefer	35	118	15	30	10	3	.264
McBride	54	184	28	45	7	5	.244
Shanks	27	95	13	22	3	5	.222
Williams	16	35	3	7	0	1	.200
Henry	29	82	11	16	3	1	.195
Hughes	11	27	4	5	0	1	.185
Cashin	20	46	3	8	0	1	.174
Knight	31	92	10	15	4	7	.163
Groom	17	34	3	4	0	2	.118

### NOTES OF THE CLIMBERS

Let's make it nineteen!  
Griff's wrecking crew works again.  
All hail Chick Gandil, the hero of the grandest ball game on record.

The fans are wild about our sterling first sacker, for he not only put up a corking good game on the initial station, but smacked out a trio of bingles, knocking in three runs and scored himself, all in one afternoon.

Brig Lord, acting captain of the Mackmen, when he took care of Gandil's drive in the ninth after Moeller had scored with the winning run, threw the ball into the grandstand.

It was a hard game for the Athletics to lose, but Griff's Climbers were on the job, and ran the bases in great style, while Maggett, when he was caught napping in the ninth, probably cost the Elephants a tally. Class will tell.

John Henry, who is said by many to be the best catcher in the American League, put up a great game behind the bat, throwing to bases in good shape. His stop of McBride's throw in the eighth inning was a fancy piece of work, and really saved at least a run.

President Taft greeted Manager Griffith and smilingly shook hands with Gorman Schaefer.

The floral tribute was the gift of the business men of Washington, with Messrs. Doolin and De Moll as the committee.

When the band played "Everybody's Doing It" in the seventh the Climbers came across with two tallies.

Bob Groom, toothpick hurler of the Nationals, trotted on the field amid a thunder of cheers.

Buscoe Lord, first up, hit a sharp grounder to McBride, and the Nationals' Fielding a Feature.

The practice put up by the Nationals before the game brought cheers from the fans time and again. Swell stops, neat plays, and long drives featured the preliminary workout.

McBride put up a great game, perhaps the best game ever played on the new diamond. Time and again Capt. Mac would go after a hard grounder, snag the ball, and make a great throw to Gandil.

The Cosmos Theater band attended the game and furnished music throughout. When the band played "Everybody's Doing It" in the seventh the Climbers came across with two tallies.

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## CLIMBERS IMPROVED FULLY 30 PER CENT

Addition of Chick Gandil Make the Nationals Look Like a Pennant Winner—McBride Gets Ovation.  
Pelt and Hughes to Pitch To-day.

Chick Gandil's great stick work yesterday, when he virtually won the game for the Nationals, driving in three runs, was the talk of the town last night.

Gandil is the best first sacker who ever wore a Washington uniform and his work in the Concrete Coliseum yesterday is right on a par with the stuff he has been coming through with while the club has been on the road, in fact, ever since he joined the team in Boston Decoration Day.

The fans saw but one side of Gandil yesterday—his batting. Time and again when playing the Western clubs Gandil has knocked down sure base hits and stopped wild throws with one hand, retiring runners and saving his mates from breaking into the error column.

**ALL ALIKE TO GANDIL.**  
Griff paid something like \$10,000 in cash, beside giving three players for Gandil, and the big fellow is worth every cent of it. Thus far all American League pitchers have looked alike to him.

When Walter Johnson, the great pitcher, heard that Griff had bought Gandil, he said: "I am glad to hear this, for Gandil will just about make our ball club."

That's the answer; when Gandil was signed, the Nationals were strengthened 30 per cent in every department.

Eddie Collins looked foolish yesterday when George McBride stopped in the base line, allowing Henry to reach first base. Mac was on first in the second inning and Henry hit to Collins.

Mac started to second, but saw that he could not make it, and rather than let the champions make a double play pulled an old gag on Collins. He stopped and started toward first again. This pulled Collins out of his stride and before he could recover himself Henry had reached first. Plays like this make the Climbers look like a championship outfit.

For the first time in a long while George McBride yesterday received plaudits for his work. On each of his four trips to the registering station he was accorded a warm welcome by the large crowd.

The Anvil Chorus had an off day, not one cry of "Same old Mac" being heard. Capt. Mac is improving daily in his batting average, the dope this morning showing a gain of six points over Saturday's standing.

Clyde Milan is getting mighty near to the 300 mark as a batsman. The Tennessee Flyer now has a percentage of .27, and should he connect safely three times out of eight in today's double bill he will have reached the coveted mark and brought Washington's total of 300 clouters up to seven.

The Climbers did not put up half the game they have been playing on the Western trip. In the battle yesterday, when the team meets the Athletics again this afternoon, some real "pep" and dash will greet the Mackmen.

Yesterday the boys were a little up in the air over the big reception accorded them, and playing before the President, and many other notables, they were a little nervous. The Athletics are seasoned players, having taken part in two pitch series, and the crowd did not trouble them in the least.

The showing of Danny Moeller was not of the best, as he did not get a single, and did not field his position to the best. The outfield was a sea of mud yesterday, and real fast work was almost out of the question, although Milan managed to get that clout of Melina's after a fast chase.

Joe Boehling worked out in the field before the game and showed plenty of speed. Manager Griffith will keep the young southpaw as he thinks he is a world beater. Boehling has plenty of speed, a good curve ball and a slow ball. All he needs is to gain control, and Boss Griff says he will teach him that when the team returns home.

Tom Hughes and Barney Pelt will face the Athletics to-day in Philadelphia, while Connie Mack will more than likely trot out Chief Bender and Jack Coombs to trim our Climbers.

Boss Griff does not hesitate to say that his aggregation will give the world's champions a hard rub for every game and that he would not be surprised to win the entire series, although that is a little more than can be hoped for.

Should the Climbers break even with the Athletics?

Pre-eminent among the notables who occupied seats at yesterday's frolic was that thirty-third degree fan, Frenchy, sponsor of the Nationals, win or lose. Frenchy was in his element yesterday, and during the fracas over the ruling of the "ump" on Gandil's score, the super-hung covered thirty laps around the grandstand trying to learn how the tide turned.

Visitors to Frenchy's place of business yesterday afternoon found a huge sign confronting them, hung over locker doors. Embellished on the banner was the following pertinent information: "Closed—Gone to the ball game!"—Get in line, boys.

**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION.**  
Columbus, 4; Toledo, 8.  
Indianapolis, 5; Louisville, 6.  
Memphis, 3; Milwaukee, 6 (eleven innings).

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